

AMENDMENTS

In the claims:

Please amend Claim 2 to read as follows.

2.(twice amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that:

- B1
- (a) encodes the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2; and
 - (b) hybridizes under highly stringent conditions including washing in 0.1xSSC/0.1% SDS at 68°C to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the complement thereof.

RESPONSE

I. Status of the Claims

Claim 2 has been amended. Claims 1-8 are therefore presently pending in the case. For the convenience of the Examiner, a clean copy of the pending claims is attached hereto as **Exhibit**

A. In compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii), a marked up copy of the original claims is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.

II. Support for the Amended Claims

Claim 2 has been amended to further clarify the claim, and to recite specifically highly stringent hybridization wash conditions. Support for this claim can be found throughout the specification as originally filed, with particular support being found at least in Claim 2 as originally filed and at page 3, lines 30-33.

As amended claims 1 and 2 and new claims 5-8 are fully supported by the specification and claims as originally filed and as such do not constitute new matter. Entry therefore is respectfully requested.